

FIRST SCIENTIFIC MEETING FOR CALIFORNIA'S STEM CELL AGENCY TO CHART NEW DIRECTIONS FOR RESEARCH Experts from Around the World to Convene in San Francisco

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EMERYVILLE —The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) will hold its first scientific meeting entitled Stem Cell Research: Charting New Directions for California on October 1-2, 2005. The purpose of the meeting is to identify scientific priorities for the first phase of stem cell research funded under Proposition 71. The meeting, which will be held at the Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel in San Francisco, will feature six scientific sessions with presentations by stem cell researchers and clinicians from the United States as well as Australia, Canada, Israel, Sweden and the United Kingdom. In addition to the presentations, each session will include a panel discussion aimed to generate recommendations for scientific funding priorities for CIRM.

The meeting will cover fundamental and applied aspects of stem cell research and will span topics ranging from basic stem cell biology to prospects for therapeutic applications and discoveries using specialized cells derived from stem cells. To better understand processes that govern stem cell fates, fundamental questions such as regulation of stem cell division and maturation will be addressed. Applied research topics include the use of stem cells as tools for disease research and for discovery of drug therapies. One session will focus on private industry perspectives on clinical applications of stem cells as cellular therapeutics. For a full agenda, please visit: <http://www.cirm.ca.gov/pdf/10-1.pdf>.

"This meeting will be the first step in setting our scientific priorities for laboratory and clinical research on stem cells," said Zach Hall, Ph.D., Interim President of CIRM. "At the meeting, world-wide leaders in stem cell research will seek to identify key scientific opportunities as well as roadblocks to progress that we can address. The recommendations from this meeting will guide the grants that we fund during the first phase of our research program."

To facilitate scientific discussions, the meeting will be limited to 200 attendees including scientists from academia and private industry, patient advocates and the public. CIRM plans to simulcast the proceedings to multiple sites (TBD) throughout the state in an effort to reach a broad audience of interested Californians. In addition, summaries of the recommendations from each session will be posted on the CIRM website following the meeting.

Applications for registration will be accepted August 9-23 at: www.cirm.ca.gov

About CIRM

CIRM was established in 2004 with the passage of Proposition 71, the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative. The Institute is responsible for disbursing \$3 billion in State funds for stem cell research to California universities and research institutions over the next ten years and is overseen and governed by the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC).

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